AT

TO: VALIÈRE DUBNOT → J.P. Catry
AND all your friends de la part du Gr. 40
d' AISF

PP057

EAST TIMORESE NON VIOLENCE AND SOLIDARITY
COMMITTEE
Comite Activo Nao-Violencia
e Solidariedade Timorense

(CANVISTI)
January, 1993

Report on the situation in East Timor before and after the capture of Xanana Gusmao

Before the Capture

The period leading up to the arrest of Xanana Gusmao, particularly at the time of the NAM Summit held in Jakarta in September, saw an increase in violations of fundamental human rights, and this climate was intensified further in anticipation of the anniversary of the November 12 massacre and ahead of the visit of an Australian parliamentary delegation. In response to this, a number of young East Timorese took the opportunity to flee to Java (Jakarta) for security reasons. Some of these young Timorese sent a letter dated 5 September 1992 to a number of international human rights organisations.

The last 3 years which have seen a growth in resistance activities in Dili, beginning with the Papal visit, the demonstrations which occurred at the time of the American Ambassador's visit and to the end of 1990, demonstrate the people's initiatives in actively promoting diplomatic efforts and supporting those of organisations working in solidarity with the Timorese in the face of the violations of human rights being perpetrated by Jakarta in East Timor. In 1990, after the disappearance of various youths in East Timor, including Claudio Armindo Brites Boavida (Didi) (26 years of age, captured on 19 October, 1990) who was tortured and whose place of burial is to this day unknown, and right up until the massacre of November 12 1991, the above initiatives did not, however, succeed in moving the governments of powerful nations to approve a resolution in favour of the principle of universal human rights which Indonesia has violated, is violating and will continue to violate in East Timor. Today we are aware that in this world economic interests are unjustly given priority over fundamental human rights. Our hope is that God will save us, since who in this world has shown themselves prepared to do so? According to the analysis of the politicians, and we trust it is true, Bill Clinton and the Democrats will support us. We also trust that with the participation of international leaders and international solidarity groups in the next Human Rights Conference in Geneva, a resolution in favour of the 'truth' will be reached.

(1)

In 1992, the Indonesian military attempted to physically and ideologically exterminate rebel groups in East Timor.

(2)

What follows is the account of one youth, Francisco David Carlos (Abonu):

I am a final year student in the Civil Engineering Faculty of the Dili Polytechnic. I had been constantly persecuted ever since the November 12 massacre, and was arrested on 2 September 1992 following the arrest of our colleague, Agostinho

Dear friend! ...
I have received your "kliping", four pages of "A PAZ É POSSIVEL EM TIMOR LESTE"

I want to say that I had read it. So I prefer if you
have some recent, please send me, especially French or Amer
daily journal or magazine.

Pereira (Mau Laku). That day was a holiday and I spent it with my family in Dili-Bebora. At 7am armed soldiers and intelligence forces came to arrest me, however, I managed to escape, leaving my family (parents and sisters) to suffer brutal mistreatment and ransacking of the house at the hands of the Indonesian soldiers. At 9am the agents sought me out at the Polytechnic in Hera and I had no choice but to surrender. I was handcuffed and tortured on the spot and then taken to Colmera prison where I was hit and kicked and generally taken revenge upon. I was asked my name, to which I responded that my name was Abonu. they laughed as they tortured me further, tearing off my rosary and forcing me to eat the way they had done to the youths on the day of the Santa Cruz massacre. They ripped off and stole my gold chain and after having drawn blood, placed me in an empty room where I was left for two days without food. In a nearby house where there are cells, I heard the voices of prisoners, some of whom were moaning with hunger. One of the voices I thought to be that of my brother, Gaspar, but I couldn't positively identify it. Two days later I was interrogated again and had all of my clothing apart from shorts, taken from me. I was accused of being the leader of the clandestine group and forced to admit that I knew about everything. Since I denied this, they began again with their dreadful torture: electric shocks, beatings with a club, and whilst forced to kneel on sharp rocks, I was burnt with cigarettes and electric irons. Today my whole body bears the scars resulting from this torture. I was forced to sit on the floor with both feet up on a chair and then a huge rock weighing roughly 30 kilos was placed on my knees for a long period of time whilst I was being interrogated. Today my left knee is crippled. During the interrogations, one of my colleagues, Jose Gouveia, was also brought in and subjected to torture. When I first saw him, I was totally unable to recognise him because of the physical state he was in. I remained in the cell for one month and, fearing that my death was imminent, I decided to escape rather than be shot. On the 8th of October I was once more called up and interrogated. I began playing games with my interrogator, asking for a cigarette and then a cup of tea. When he had gone in search of a cup of tea, I opened the door and fled; thanks to God, I managed to escape and was free of the threat of death. For one month, I took refuge in the homes of friends in Dili where I received medical treatment and then at the beginning of November 1992, I escaped to Jakarta.

The above testimony along with a photograph of the author will be made available at the Geneva Human Rights Commission meeting. The whereabouts of the brother (Gaspar Xavier Carlos) of the above eyewitness, arrested along with a group of colleagues, are still unknown today. It is strongly suspected that he died having been tortured as also happened in the case of A.B. Boavida (Didi) in 1990. We demand an international investigation. Abonu has also confirmed that prisoner David da Conceicao / Aleong who had escaped from Becora prison but who was re-captured in the Motael parish residence, had been brutally tortured and had his knee caps burnt so badly that he is today completely maimed.

Family Visits to Prisoners Held in Jakarta and Surrounds

They confirm with great sadness: *With the imprisonment of Fernando de Araujo and Joao Freitas da Camara, we, the families of the prisoners in Dili and Jumulai, are suffering terrible reprisals from the Indonesian troops; in Dili and Ainaro all family members close to Fernando were called up and interrogated, some even tortured and then released. As far as the family of Joao Freitas da Camara is*

Please send this report to Mrs. Célia Duque.
and we hope her action.

concerned and in particular those relatives living in Jumulai and having the surname 'Camara', many were interrogated and imprisoned, amongst them Patricio da Camara and Joaquim dos Santos who spent a long period of time in a cell in Jumulai. They can confirm that in every corner of Dili, territorial forces have been posted with the aim of keeping close watch over the people's movements, the result being that the movement and activities of the youth are severely limited and controlled. One woman commented that the military presence is felt even in the w.c and kitchens of the people. 'Those of us who are going through this terrible experience, cannot react other than submit to God', says this woman. Pedro, an individual close to the Village Chief confirmed that a young woman called Joana residing in Aitarak Laran, Dili, had been raped by soldier from Batallion 433 who was stationed in the village. Joana's parents attempted to bring the case to court, but it has been put on hold and Batallion 433 has been replaced with Batallion 503.

One youth spoke of his concerns about the military presence in East Timor and the situation of his colleagues detained in Dili. He confirmed that many of them have refused to act as witnesses in the trial of Xanana for the reason that, according to them, he should not be tried under Indonesian law; others agreed under certain conditions. One youth from Culu Hun called Marito Mota was forced to become a witness at the trial of Xanana. He was asked to sign a witness's statement written by the Indonesian military, however, he refused to sign when he read the following paragraph: 'In our meeting with Xanana, he declared that if East Timor gains its independence, we will implement a communist ideology'. Marito protested, saying that Xanana had never made such a declaration.

The families of the prisoners also confirmed that orders had been issued to all pro-independence elements to present themselves to the military command. They also confirmed that the prisoners had been badly treated, although some of them had been allowed to spend Christmas with their families. Oscar Lima (CV Surik Mas), Americo (CV Suai Indah), Leandro, and Constancio (first Sergeant in the Indonesian army) and others who had been maimed were not permitted to spend Christmas in their homes with their families. Henrique Belmiro, Afong and another colleague had been taken away by the military and were not present during the last visits made by family members.

It is said that prior to his trial, Xanana will be forced to do a tour of all villages and to make a declaration of repentence in front of all the villagers. There is also speculation that all of the traditional village heads of Timor have been invited to attend Xanana's trial at the invitation of the Indonesian military. They have confirmed that the trial will be held in the open, and that orders have been issued requiring all those wishing to be present at the trial to identify themselves to the 'Babinsa' (military officer stationed in the village to assist and keep watch over the village head).

The Case of Oscar Lima and his Company 'CV Surik Mas'

Oscar Lima is a successful Timorese businessman whose efforts enabled him to guarantee the well-being of many people but whose activities today, however, have come to a complete halt under orders from the Indonesian military who have accused him of offering logistical assistance to Xanana Gusmao. Just prior to his arrest, he had visited Surabaya to organise financing in the order of 2

I have received a letter from Mr. Geoff Robinson. and he told me that he received my letter that I sent to Mrs. Cecilie. Thanks for this action.

million rupiah for a project which was approved. However, before the deal could be concluded, he was called up and imprisoned in a cell in Comarca Prison, Dili. One of his colleagues commented that in reality Oscar Lima was in competition with a number of Indonesian developers with military connections. This colleague commented that taking such action against Oscar robbed the Indonesian state of any credibility. Indonesian soldiers had been taking advantage of a small shop belonging to Agusto Pereira in whose house Xanana was discovered to be hiding out. The shop was supplied by 'CV Surik Mas'. In the presence of the military, the above CV Surik Mas employee stated the following in defence of his boss: 'The goods sold in Agusto's shop were purchased in accordance with confirmed orders and all invoices were settled once the stock had been sold. I trusted Agusto since he is a police sergeant. If I had known that he was active in the clandestine network or that Xanana was hiding out in his home, I would never have agreed to supply his shop, but instead sent in the military to catch them.' Now the military has ordered that the company be closed down for a three year period awaiting Oscar Lima's trial. In a meeting of company employees, it was decided that Manuel Coelho, the company's Vice Director, be sent to Bali and Surabaya to deal with issues relating to the continuation of the company's activities, with a view to assisting employees, workers and their families. No doubt, however, these efforts will be in vain. As one employee commented, thousands of lives were dependent on the CV Surik Mas salary and are now in limbo.

Comment by Mrs Maria Lourdes Branca

Mrs Maria Branca is one of those who suffered a good deal of psychological pressure and interrogations in September 1992. During a visit paid to her husband, Albino Lourdes, who is imprisoned in Cipinang, she made the following comments: 'I was interrogated a number of times. On 16 September 1992 I was subjected to rigorous interrogations, and whilst I was not beaten, I was threatened with a gun if I didn't speak the truth, and the pistol was always on the table. They accused me of being an organizer of the youth, and particularly of my children, who according to them I had sent to Kupang, Jakarta and Lisbon with the aim of informing the world of the Indonesian military's activities in East Timor. I responded that I knew nothing about this. They told me that they had proof of the people involved in the clandestine network in Dili and Jakarta, that I should confess to everything, and I was asked about people I didn't know. They threatened me, telling me that it was just as well I was an elderly woman. If I were a man or a younger woman I would be subjected to torture and raped. After each interrogation session they requested that I work together with them, and I accepted although my conscience rebelled against this. Prior to Xanana's capture, my home was often closely watched by the military since they suspected that I was harbouring him and other members of the clandestine network. Antonio Badak (Ai tahan Matak) who had been accused of being one of the main elements in the clandestine network, was captured and tortured. He is now imprisoned in Colmera Prison, Dili. According to their threats, all those now based in Java and Bali will be rounded and up and arrested.'

ENDS

Dear Valiae!...
Thanks for your sending.
and I await for the Recent one.